Levy on computers

2997. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had justified the levy on computers in his last budget speech on the ground that the industry had arrived and was healthy and vigorous;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Electronics has issued a statement which was published in the Financial Express of the 1st July, 1987, specifically saying that the Indian computer hardware industry was at a nascent stage; and

(c) what are the reasons for contradictions in the statements made by the Prime Minister and the Department of Electronics and whether Government now propose to issue a final statement on the progress made by the computer manufacturing industry in India so far and its future prospects, particularly with respect to exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Department of Electronics has issued no statement for publication in the Financial Express of 1st July, 1987.

(c) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Failure analysis of ASLV launch

2998. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the reasons for the recent failure of India's ASLV at Sriharikota have been established;

(b) whether it was a technical or human failure; if the latter, whether responsibility of the person or persons concerned has been determined;

(c) what has been decided about the launch of the latest INSAT after the series of failures of the Challenger, Atlas and Ariana rockets which were put in orbit;

(d) whether and to what extent space projects figured in the recent agreement on science and technology signed in Moscow between Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri Mikhail Gorbachev; and

(e) what progress has been made in setting up a space centre in India, based on the offer made by the Soviet Union during Shri Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) has confirmed that the failure of the mission is due to the non-ignition of the first stage at 48.5 sec. after lift off. The FAC has, therefore, focussed efforts towards the identification of the causes for the malfunction of the ignition system of the first stage. An exhaustive list of thirtyseven possible failure modes was identified and after a detailed investigation of all these modes, the FAC has ruled out the possibility of occurrence of any of these failure modes. After a thorough analysis of all the flight data and extensive simulation studies, the FAC has